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## ICC ORDERS SBC TO CONTINUE PROVIDING UNE-P TO COMPETITORS PENDING REVIEW OF FCC'S ORDER

The Illinois Commerce Commission today issued orders granting emergency relief to several competitive local exchange carriers, who sought to prevent SBC from eliminating access and increasing the price of certain unbundled network elements on March 11.

The Commission directed SBC to continue to offer the same unbundled network elements as required in each company's interconnection agreement until those agreements are amended pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or pending the outcome of a further proceeding to determine how and when the services may be eliminated and what new prices may be charged.

Administrative law judges for the Commission, working under the statutory two-day deadline, reviewed the petitions for emergency relief and found that CLECs had raised a fair question that SBC's plan to discontinue the provision of unbundled network elements likely would have a substantial adverse effect on the ability of the competitive companies to provide service to customers.

The Commission's orders provide time for the competitive local exchange carriers and SBC to debate whether the FCC's TRRO allows the incumbent telecommunications service provider to eliminate access to certain unbundled network elements on March 11, 2005 as SBC declared in its Accessible Letter, or whether the FCC order provides for a transition period in which FCC directives are negotiated.

The proceedings will continue for up to 90 days as provided for under Illinois law and will be forwarded to the Commission for a decision on the merits.

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